

4 a second spring interposed between said distal end of a second one of said armatures and  
5 an opposite extremity of said coil.

1 5. The lock of claim 3, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending between  
2 a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 6. The lock of claim 4, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending between  
2 a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 7. The lock of claim 1, further comprised of said housing providing a cavity having a  
2 longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said detents comprising a plurality of slots formed  
3 within said interior surface on diametrically opposite sides of said interior surface.

1 8. The lock of claim 1, further comprised of:  
2 said housing providing a cavity having a longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said  
3 detents comprising a plurality of slots formed within said interior surface on diametrically opposite  
4 sides of said interior surface; and

5 said mechanism comprising a cylinder plug removably receivable within said cavity to  
6 rotate about said longitudinal axis, with said coil and said armatures borne by said cylinder plug in  
7 radial alignment with said slots while said housing is in said locked state, and said distal ends being

8 withdrawn from said slots while said housing is in said unlocked state.

1 9. The lock of claim 8, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending between  
2 a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 10. The lock of claim 8, further comprised of said distal ends being beveled.

1 11. The lock of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 said housing providing a first bracket having a pair of spaced-apart end walls forming a  
3 cavity having a longitudinal axis, and said detents comprising a plurality of apertures formed within  
4 said end walls on diametrically opposite sides of said cavity; and

5 said mechanism comprising a second bracket bearing said coil and said armatures to be  
6 slidably received within said cavity between said end walls with said armatures being aligned with  
7 said longitudinal axis, with said distal ends engaging said end walls and said armatures being  
8 depressed into said bore until said housing is placed in said locked state when said armatures are in  
9 axial alignment with said apertures, said distal ends being withdrawn from said apertures and toward  
10 said bore while said housing is in said unlocked state.

1 12. The lock of claim 11, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending  
2 between a central portion of said bore and atmosphere.

1           13. The lock of claim 11, further comprised of said distal ends being beveled.

1           14. The lock of claim 13, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending  
2 between a central portion of said bore and atmosphere.

1           15. A lock, comprising:

2               a housing bearing an interior recess containing a pair of spaced apart detents, said housing  
3 being positionable to control access by alternately positioning said detents in a locked state and an  
4 unlocked state;

5               a single annularly wound electrically conducting coil terminated by a single pair of leads;  
6 and

7               a pair of armatures made of a material that is movably responsive to magnetic force, being  
8 slidably positioned within axially opposite ends of said coil between said detents, with one or both  
9 of said armatures maintaining said locked state by engaging corresponding ones of said detents, and  
10 placing said lock in said unlocked state in response to application of a potential difference across said  
11 pair of leads.

1           16. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending  
2 between a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1           17. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending

between a central position of said coil.

18. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of said housing providing a cavity having a longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said detents comprising a plurality of slots formed within said interior surface on diametrically opposite sides of said interior surface.

19. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of:

said housing providing a cavity having a longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said detents comprising a plurality of slots formed within said interior surface on diametrically opposite sides of said interior surface; and

a cylinder plug removably receivable within said cavity to rotate about said longitudinal axis, with said coil and said armatures rotatably borne by said cylinder plug in radial alignment with said slots while said housing is in said locked state, and said armatures being withdrawn from said slots while said housing is in said unlocked state.

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20. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of:

said housing providing a first bracket having a pair of spaced-apart end walls forming a cavity having a longitudinal axis, and said detents comprising a plurality of apertures formed within said end walls on diametrically opposite sides of said cavity; and

a second bracket bearing said coil and said armatures to be slidably received within said cavity between said end walls with said armatures being aligned with said longitudinal axis, with

7 distal ends of said armatures engaging said end walls and said armatures being depressed into said  
8 bore until said housing is placed in said locked state when said armatures are in axial alignment with  
9 said apertures, said distal ends being withdrawn from said apertures and toward said bore while said  
10 housing is in said unlocked state.

1 21. A lock, comprised of:

2 a solenoid comprising:

3 an electrically conducting coil; and

4 a plurality of armatures positioned to exhibit a response to conduction of an electrical  
5 current by said coil;

6 a first one of said plurality of armatures being aligned with a second one of said  
7 plurality of armatures to exhibit an increased outward force axially away from said coil when an  
8 inward force directed axially toward said coil is applied to said second one of said plurality of  
9 armatures during an absence of said conduction.

1 22. A lock, comprised of:

2 a coil disposed to conduct an electrical current;

3 a plurality of armatures positioned to operatively respond to conduction of said electrical  
4 current by said coil, with a first one of said plurality of armatures being biased outwardly and away  
5 from said coil when a force biasing a second one of said armatures inwardly toward said coil is  
6 applied to said second one of said armatures during an absence of said conduction.